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The American University Union in Europe

New York

1921

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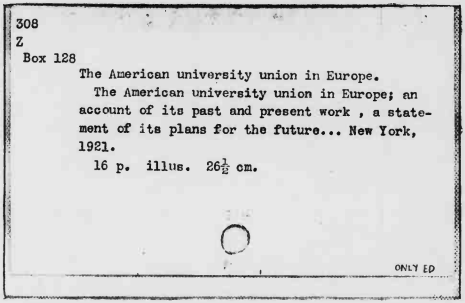

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The American university union in Europe.

The American university union in Europe; an account of its past and present work , a statement of its plans for the future... New York, 1921.

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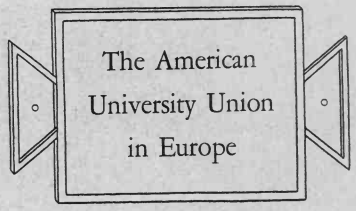

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The American University Union in Europe

An Account of its Past and Present Work
A Statement of its Plans for the Future

New York City : Mdccccxxi

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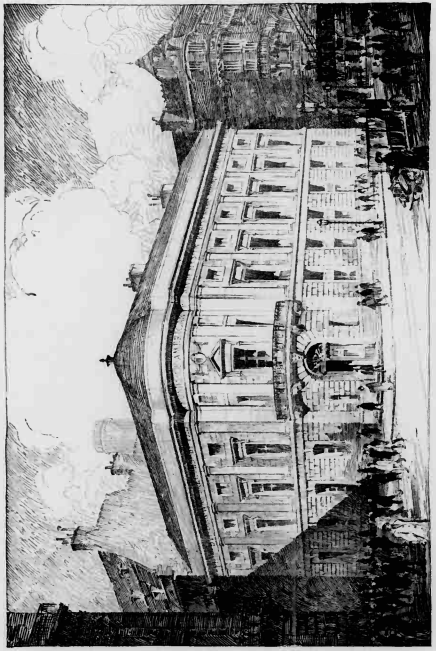
THIS *publication summarizes the work of the American University Union in Europe during the war and describes its establishment and maintenance for educational service in times of peace. The Union has the definite support of over fifty American universities and colleges, and of governmental and educational authorities in Great Britain and on the Continent, and the coöperation of important educational organizations and agencies in the United States and Europe. All that is now needed to assure its adequate development is to capitalize, through gifts to endowment, the significant appropriation of $15,000 from the Trustees of the Rockefeller Foundation towards current expenses of the Union during the year 1920, and to secure a donor for the proposed building in Paris on the valuable site generously offered by the Municipal Council of the City of Paris.*

Detailed reports and bulletins of the Union may be secured from the Secretary of the Board of Trustees.



PROPOSED MAISON DES ÉTUDIANTS
TENTATIVE DESIGN FOR THE BUILDING OF THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY UNION IN EUROPE ON THE SITE OFFERED BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF PARIS

The Union During the War

(*a*) *War Service*

The American University Union in Europe was formally organized July 6, 1917, at a meeting in New York City of accredited representatives of fifteen American universities and colleges. Founded primarily to meet the needs of American college men in overseas war service, the Union enrolled at its Paris, London, and Rome offices during the war about 35,000 college men, representing 530 American institutions of learning. Its membership included over 140 American universities and colleges which contributed directly to its financial support. More than 100 men and women, most of them American college graduates, served on its various overseas staffs, Advisory Councils, and committees. It had the support of General Pershing, the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, the American Ambassadors in Great Britain, France, Italy, and Belgium, and of foreign governmental and municipal authorities.

The Union maintained its European headquarters in Paris where it leased a centrally located modern hotel which it conducted as a center and home for American college men and their friends. Besides such usual club features as library, restaurant, and bedrooms, it provided special purchasing, canteen, and banking departments, a number of individual college bureaus, and general registration and mail offices of unusual service to men abroad and to their families and friends at home. Among the larger American war-relief organizations, it was notable for offering to officers and men, without distinction of rank, a common meeting ground and identical privileges. Through scores of special college reunions and through daily

personal service, it brought thousands of American college men during the war into direct contact with the familiar associations and influences of American university life.

The Union was thus, both in its institutional membership at home and in the organization and spirit of its overseas war service, broadly representative of American colleges.

(*b*) *Educational Service*

From the outset the Union's possibilities of important educational service were recognized. In December, 1917, the officers of the Union in Paris received the offer from responsible French governmental and educational authorities of the educational facilities of France for the benefit of Americans in military service. This generous initiative led ultimately to the placing, by the American Army Educational Commission, of some 5700 A.E.F. students in French universities during the Armistice. These students, with the coöperation of the Union, formed an organization, "The American Army Students in France," which provided funds for sending fourteen French students to American universities.

In November, 1917, the universities of Oxford and Cambridge appointed committees to coöperate with the British branch of the Union. The services of its Secretary were temporarily released to the American Army Educational Commission to facilitate the distribution among British universities of about 2000 A.E.F. officers and men, given four months' leave for study during the period of the Armistice. The Director of the Union in Rome prepared for American students a pamphlet on Italian universities and otherwise collaborated with Italian educational leaders.

Even before the close of the war, the various European offices of the Union had become in these and other ways recognized centers of educational service.

Establishment of the Union on a Peace Basis

During the Armistice, it became increasingly evident that the Union had developed definite lines of permanently important educational service. The British Minister of Education, the French Minister of Public Instruction, the heads of numerous British and French universities, and Lord Bryce, the late Sir William Osler, Professor Bergson, and other educational leaders, urged the continuance of the Union for service in times of peace. Speaking in the name of the French government, M. Tardieu said:

"One of the most important and valuable results of the contest in which we have fought and triumphed together for Right and Freedom is that the relations between American Universities and French Universities have developed on a larger and newer scale, thus multiplying the bonds that unite them. The American and French Universities will contribute materially in establishing the friendship of France and the United States on an indestructible basis for the greatest good of our two countries and in the interest of the World's Peace. This the American University Union has understood perfectly. It has been not only the intellectual home of the American Army in France; it has been an admirable center of Franco-American friendship. The work it has done during the war with a farsighted enthusiasm must endure after the war."

At a meeting in New York City, April 19, 1919, largely attended by presidents of American universities and colleges and representatives of bodies interested in international education, it was unanimously decided to continue the Union as a bond between American and European universities. Subsequently its Constitution was modi-

fied to this end, and provision was made for the election of its Board of Trustees on a more broadly representative basis.

The offices of the Union in Paris and London were removed to quarters better adapted to its present purposes. In London, the Union shares with the Universities Bureau of the British Empire and with a French educational representative a building, 50 Russell Square, near the British Museum. In Paris, the Union has equally convenient offices at 1 rue de Fleurus, opposite the Luxembourg Garden. The American Academy in Rome cares for the Italian interests of the Union.

Organization and Support of the Union

(*a*) *Organization*

The American University Union in Europe is an association not of individuals but of over fifty universities, colleges, and higher technical schools throughout the United States. It includes both state and privately endowed institutions, both women's and men's colleges.

Its Board of Trustees, chosen on a representative basis, includes the presidents of eleven American universities and colleges, and other officers, trustees, and professors of various educational institutions and organizations. The full membership of the Board of Trustees, with the list of officers is given on pages 2 and 3.

A definite Basis of Coöperation with the American Council on Education and the Institute of International Education, adopted in December, 1919, precludes duplication of the work of the Union and recognizes its directors in Great Britain and France as the representatives of the Council and the Institute in these countries.

During the past year "the intention of the three organizations to work together in friendliness and mutual helpfulness" has been happily realized.

The Union is formally represented on the Interchange Committee of the Universities in the British Isles, and in other British and French organizations. The inclusion of Union representatives in the Advisory Council of the American Field Service Fellowships for French Universities and on other American committees establishes informal connections of mutual helpfulness.

The Union has thus a recognized field for important educational service and facilities for effective coöperation with other agencies.

(*b*) *Support*

Since its inception, in 1917, the Union has been supported financially (1) by membership dues paid by American universities and colleges; (2) by individual gifts to current income. Though its services were freely rendered to all American college men and their friends during the war, the Union was maintained without any general appeal for funds. In view of the extent and character of the war service of the Union, the Treasurer's Reports for the two years, ending September 1, 1919, showing expenditures of less than $100,000 ($96,147.87) testify to efficiency and economy of administration both abroad and at home.

The post-war budgets of 1919–1920 and 1920–1921, averaging about $24,000, have been met chiefly by membership dues and the generous appropriation during the past year of $15,000 by the Trustees of the Rockefeller Foundation. This unrestricted gift to current income was made in recognition of "the value of the Union, the representative character of its Board of Trustees and of its university support, and the significance which it might have in furthering an educational entente between America and the great nations of Europe."

The Present Work of the Union

The European offices of the Union are primarily centers of educational information and personal counsel and assistance for American students abroad and for foreigners seeking to study in America. The services of the Union Directors and staffs are in constant demand also to facilitate international interchanges of professors, students, and lecturers, and visits of educational commissions and representatives, to secure the privileges of libraries, record offices, and museums, to aid scholarly research, and to arrange for conferences of international committees and for individual meetings with men of science and of letters. In short, the Union offices are recognized clearing houses for questions of international educational and cultural relations of every sort.

(*a*) *In France*

During the past year about 360 American students regularly resident in Paris, and many more transient American scholars and students abroad, have been directly served. The increasing volume of mail inquiries and requests is further proof of the need of the Continental headquarters of the Union.

Definite illustration of some of the ways in which the Union aids American students to come into direct contact with the best aspects of European thought and life is given by the program of 1920–1921 for the monthly evening gatherings at its Paris quarters, addressed by distinguished French representatives. The speakers include M. André Tardieu on "French Politics and the United States"; M. Appell, Rector of the Academy of Paris, on "The University of

Paris"; M. Bénédite, Custodian of the Luxembourg and Rodin Museums; M. Lauzanne, editor in chief of "Le Matin," on "French Newspapers"; M. Jacques Copeau on "The Contemporary Theater." These talks, given invariably in French, are followed by informal social gatherings to which American students bring their French friends.

A similar series of informal receptions and dances to introduce American students enrolled at the Union to representative French homes has been arranged by the ladies of the "Association of French Homes," an organization which during the war was most generous in its hospitality to Americans in service. The Union lists of approved French lodgings and teachers are especially helpful to Americans on arrival in Paris.

The constant aim of the Union is thus to adjust American students as promptly as possible to their new environment, to enlarge their educational opportunities, and to stimulate their appreciation of French culture and life.

(*b*) *In Great Britain*

During the past year registrations in person at the London office exceeded 600. Specific services rendered included the placing of a considerable number of American students in different British universities and schools, and of British students in American institutions, the conduct in Great Britain of the examinations of the American College Entrance Examination Board, the securing of library and other privileges for individual scholars, and the furtherance of international interchanges of professors and lecturers. The extent of the mail service of the Union is indicated by a total of over 9000 letters in and out, though its significance rests rather in practical assistance rendered to individual inquirers and to educational institutions and organizations.

The Director of the British Division of the Union prepared a valuable bulletin for American students on "Opportunities for Graduate Study in the British Isles," which was published and widely circulated in the United States by the Institute of International Education. The Director serves on many committees of important British organizations interested in Anglo-American affairs, educational and cultural. His services, both formal and informal, have been constantly sought for furthering gatherings as general as those of the Pilgrim Memorial celebrations, and as specific as that of the British and American professors of English held in London, July, 1920. The American Library Association presented to the London office of the Union 400 volumes of American books not readily accessible in England.

The Union in London, as in Paris, is a center of educational activity and service. Its larger significance as a bond of mutual sympathy and good will is suggested in the words of Dr. Shipley, of Cambridge University, head of the British Educational Mission to the United States: "The Union has done much to bring our countries together."

The Offer of the City of Paris

Prior to the entrance of the United States into the war, the suggestion of establishing in Paris a center to meet the needs of American students in France had been advanced by M. Hovelaque, later a member of the French Mission to the United States. To further the project, committees were formed in France and the United States, the latter including many American university presidents and other educational leaders. The Municipal Council of Paris expressed its readiness to give a suitable site for the proposed building. The successful establishment of the American University Union in Paris led to the merger of the "Maison des Étudiants" interests with those of the Union. The offer of the Municipal Council of Paris was formally accepted by a representative of the Board of Trustees of the Union at a meeting in Paris, in January, 1919. In September, 1919, the reorganized Board of Trustees voted unanimously to authorize the raising of funds for the building and maintenance of the "Maison." Preliminary plans for the building were drawn, but it was deemed inadvisable to proceed definitely until the needs of the Union had been fully tested by actual experience of post-war conditions in Paris, and until the immediate financial requirements of American colleges had been largely met by the various individual "endowment drives" in progress or in prospect.

The valuable and very convenient site offered by the Municipal Council has an admirable frontage on the rue du Four, near the Boulevard Saint-Germain, within easy range of the Sorbonne, the École des Beaux Arts, and other important educational institutions.

The Maison des Étudiants in Paris

The proposed "Maison des Étudiants" of the Union in Paris is designed to meet adequately the manifold demands which already tax the present facilities of its temporary Paris quarters. It will contain bureaus of registration and information, supplied with current university and college catalogues, and bulletins of courses of study, both foreign and American, offices for the Director and staff, reception and writing rooms, conference rooms for meetings of American and foreign groups of scholars or committees, and an assembly room for larger gatherings. The need for the latter is em-

phasized by the present series of addresses at the Union to American students by distinguished French leaders and by the large social gatherings which bring together American and French students in Paris.

A central feature of the "Maison" will be the library, supplied with books chosen to meet the needs of American scholars and students abroad, and of foreigners who seek acquaintance with different aspects of American education, history, politics, literature, and science. Gifts of books from departments of the French government and from individual authors already supply the Union with the nucleus of a good French library. The reading-room will be adapted to carrying files of current American university and other literary and scientific publications, especially those not ordinarily accessible in Paris.

From the outset the Trustees of the Union have felt that it would be unwise to encourage American students to room together in the "Maison," since its purpose is rather to increase their facilities for direct acquaintance with French thought and life. Provision may possibly be made for a few rooms for transient American scholars, or for students, pending their search for lodgings. The "Maison" will thus be primarily a clearing-house for information on educational and intellectual matters, a common meeting ground for American and foreign men of letters and science, and a center for the benefit of students.

Tentative plans for the "Maison," drawn by Messrs. Delano and Aldrich, of New York City, show how effectively its practical purposes can be served in a building notable for dignity of design and appropriate to the actual site and environment. Mr. William Adams Delano is especially qualified by years of architectural study in Paris, by familiarity with the work of the Union during the period when he was attached to the American Commission to Negotiate Peace,

and by personal study of the site offered by the City of Paris, to secure the results which the Trustees of the Union have in view.

Built on the soil of France generously given to the custody of Americans, the "Maison" should be a permanent and tangible token of Franco-American friendship, and a memorial to the service in France of American college men during the war.

Financial Needs and Plans

The financial needs of the Union are twofold: (1) to secure a donor, or group of donors, for the proposed building in Paris, on the site generously offered by the Municipal Council of the City; (2) to secure an endowment fund of at least $300,000, to supplement the income derived from the annual membership fees paid by American universities and colleges for maintenance of the general work of the Union. It is planned to secure the major portion of this amount in gifts of $10,000, $25,000, and $50,000 each.

The need of an adequate American response to the generous and unprecedented offer of the Municipal Council of Paris is obvious. It would be hard to conceive of a more permanently significant or appropriate memorial of America's coöperation with France in the World War. The practical service of the proposed building to American students abroad, to American universities and colleges, and to Franco-American educational interests and sympathies, has been shown by actual experience during the past years.

The need of adequate endowment of the work of the Union in France and Great Britain is equally obvious. In view of the intimate connection with the overseas war service of American college men and their friends, the endowment fund of the Union has been

designated as the War Memorial Fund. Permanent memorial gifts in honor of men who died in the service may be designated individually.

To aid the Union to secure permanent endowment of its work, the Rockefeller Foundation contributed to its current income during the year 1920, $15,000. This sum should be capitalized, and provision made for necessary increases in budget. Despite the financial difficulties of post-war conditions, American universities and colleges have given most generous and definite financial support to the Union. They cannot, however, fairly be asked to continue the work unaided.

The Board of Trustees has unanimously authorized the raising of the funds already described, and has appointed from its own membership the following Finance Committee:

William R. Castle, Jr., Department of State, Washington
Edwin Farnham Greene, Boston
Samuel F. Houston, Philadelphia
Harry Pratt Judson, University of Chicago
George H. Nettleton, 570 Prospect Street, New Haven, Conn., *Chairman*
Anson Phelps Stokes, Yale University
Henry B. Thompson, 320 Broadway, New York City, *Treasurer*

To this Committee has been added Robert Woods Bliss, formerly Counselor of the American Embassy in Paris, now of the Department of State.

The Finance Committee would appreciate the services of friends of the Union in bringing its plans and needs to the attention of those likely to be interested. It takes this opportunity of acknowledging gratefully the active coöperation and gifts of many of the college men whom the Union sought to serve during the war.

From such sources largely have come gifts of about $12,000 to serve as a nucleus for the War Memorial Fund.

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